

Amendments to the Specification (Previously Presented – on March 9, 2004)

[0110] Referring now to FIG. 25, a fold interleaver utilizing a mirror rather than a prism is shown. Light input to the interleaver enters a first beam displacer 51, which is preferably both an input and output beam displacer. Light from the input/output polarization beam displacer 51 passes through the birefringent element assembly 60, which comprises three birefringent elements or crystals. The light then passes through an intermediate beam displacer 52. Light from the intermediate beam displacer 52 is reflected back through the interleaver such that the light passes through the birefringent element assembly 60 in the opposite direction. As indicated in bottom left box of FIG. 25, 55 are half-wave waveplates and 56 is a quarter-wave waveplate, respectively.